Rooster Daze

Rogue River Rooster Crow

~2009~

INSIDE...

Schedule Of Events • History Of The Rooster Crow
Rooster Crow Parade & Run Applications
Car Show • Entertainment • Quilt Show & More

SPONSORED BY THE ROGUE RIVER KIWANIS & ROGUE RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WELCOME TO ROOSTER CROW 2009

On behalf of the Rogue River Chamber of Commerce and the Rogue River Kiwanis Club, welcome to Rooster Crow Weekend 2009.

We are looking forward to an exceptional weekend of fun. Volunteers from around Rogue River and the surrounding area have worked together to present a wide variety of activities for your enjoyment.

Businesses and civic organizations from the area have supported the publication of this booklet, with proceeds benefitting both the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club. Please patronize these businesses whenever possible.

Dating back 56 years, the Rooster Crow is a long-standing tradition in Rogue River. We have worked to continue that tradition and to add more fun-filled events to it. We hope that you enjoy all that we have to offer during Rooster Crow Weekend 2009.

Dean Stirm
President
Rogue River Chamber of Commerce

Maggie Clark
President
Rogue River Kiwanis Club

Roosters of all shapes, sizes and breed are welcome at the 2009 Rogue River National Rooster Crow!

ROGUE RIVER KIWANIS AND ROOSTER CROWING

Why is the ROOSTER the mascot of the Rogue River Kiwanis Club? It's a long tale but, an important one!

In the month of April in 1953, the businesses of Rogue River formed an organization called the Boosters Club. The group's main goal was to improve the town and help their community. They also wanted the nation to know that Rogue River was a City not just a River.

One member read about some miners holding a rooster crowing contest and the group thought this might be a way to bring people from all over the country to their little town. So, on May 23, 1953 the first Rogue River National Rooster Crowing Contest was held. People came from all over the country to participate and watch this unique event. The response was so positive for the community, the boosters decided to make it an annual event held the last weekend in June.

Fifty-plus years later the event has evolved somewhat, a Human Crow (People Crowing Contest) has been added, along with a parade, live entertainment, children's events, food & vendor booths, car, bike and boat shows.

The Rogue River Kiwanis Club, Chamber of Commerce, and City of Rogue River took the reins several years ago and are now the hosts of this event. Along with our Christmas See's Candy Sales and Rooster Crow food trailer, the club sells ads to local businesses and other organizations for the event booklet. These fundraisers enable us to provide 5 scholarships for the Rogue River High School and the prize money for the crowing winners, and the trophies.

Along with the Rooster Crow weekend events, Kiwanis does many other things that they can "crow" about. The Halloween Party is an annual event put on by the Club along with the Live Oak Grange Members. This event is free for all kids, we team up with other Clubs in the town and put on a real fun night of activities. Included are the fun games with prizes and of course lots of candy free hot dogs and lemonade for kids and hot coffee for the adults.

Another long time running event is the Easter Egg Hunt at Beck Field. The Kiwanis Club dyes about 150 dozen eggs and hides them for the kids to find on Saturday before Easter. Some of the lucky kids find the plastic eggs with a secret message that says, "You have won a special gift". Ten kids are awarded a basket full of goodies when they turn in their plastic egg.

These are just a few examples of the many activities that the Kiwanis Club provides for the children in our small community. So, if you are willing to donate some time and want to make some kids happy, then the Kiwanis Club of Rogue River is a perfect match!

The Kiwanis Club meets every Wednesday for lunch at the Live Oak Grange Hall, 120 Gardiner St. at 12 Noon. Also, stop by our trailer this Rooster Crow, (located near the Museum) and buy some lunch. We're grilling up some good burgers, and hot dogs.

Rooster Crow is a real community get-together experience, with that small town, good times, good friends, family fun, glad to live where we do, feeling! We thank all involved for their support of the community. See You There!!

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL
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THE ROGUE RIVER KIWANIS CLUB

Serving the Children of our Community

Your donations to the Rogue River Kiwanis Club gave
five scholarships to Rogue River High School graduates and sponsored or contributed to the following events:

Halloween Carnival
Easter Egg Hunt
Middle School Student of the Month
The Rooster Crow
Christmas Tree Lighting
Miss Rogue River Pageant

LOOK FOR THE KIWANIS TRAILER SERVING
HAMBURGERS, DRINKS AND NACHOS DURING THE ROOSTER CROW.

LENDAR OF EVENTS

Rooster Crow Weekend 2009

ay, June 26

ogue River Friends of the e, 412 E. Main Street

:emakers Quilt Show, Rogue ıool, Over 100 Quilters! $2

Rooster Crow Kickoff Dinner e Rogue River Chamber of he Rogue River Community BBQ Chicken Sandwiches for

iver City R & B, presented by er Chamber of Commerce, n Bandstand

RRPress/Nadine Roper

see page 7 for more events **Tractors and floats, an important part of the Rooster Crow Parade.**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Rooster Crow Weekend 2009

2008 Miss Rogue River, Chelsea Angeletti and her Court.

more events from page 4

by the Rogue River Chamber of Commerce, Woodville Museum Bandstand

Saturday, June 27

8:00am – **Fun Run & Walk***, Starts and ends at Rogue River Beck Field, Rogue River Middle School

8am - 10am – **Parade Formation**, Rogue River Shopping Center

9am - 5pm – **Rogue River Friends of the Library Book Sale,** 412 E. Main Street

9am - 4pm –**Concessions, Arts & Crafts** Booths Open

10am –**Rooster Crow Weekend Parade,**

see page 12 for more events

NO ROOSTER? NO PROBLEM... THE HUMANS CROW, TOO!!

The National Human Crow Championship shares the spotlight with the Rooster Crow on Saturday, June 28. The event began nine years ago as a great way to rev up the crowd for the big event.

Each year, the Human Crow continues to grow in popularity as children of all ages give their best crow for the microphone. Winners are selected based on crowd response. There is no entry fee for the Human Crow, just bring your best voice and let 'er rip.

Serving the Citizens of Rogue River since 1911

Proud to be a Major Sponsor of Rogue River's National Rooster Crow

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Rogue River's Been Crowing Since 1953

2009 Rooster Crow Grand Marshals
Ellen & Ralph Campbell Ride in Style

By Tammy Asnicar
Rogue River Press

Ellen and Ralph Campbell have been told to practice their parade waves because they're going to be leading the cruise down Main Street during Rogue River's 2009 Rooster Crow Parade.

The Campbells were selected as this year's parade grand marshals for their leadership in and community service to the City of Rogue River, but Ellen insists "there are more people more deserving."

"It was the biggest surprise of our lives," she said. "We were shocked."

Ellen admits it's been a longtime since she's participated in a parade.

"Oh, I marched with the Cub Scouts...I was that kind of mom," she said. "But, I've never been in the Rooster Crow parade."

Ralph, a car buff, has cruised with car clubs in the Boatnik and Rooster Crow parades, where the vintage vehicles are the stars, not him.

Longtime Wimer residents, the Campbells have been a cornerstone in Rogue River commerce and community service as the owners of Alexander's Framing Shop and Gallery and participants in a variety of activities. Typically, in previous years, they've been too busy to participate in the Rooster Crow parade or contest --- this year, they'll be taking in all the sights and sounds of the 56th annual event.

When asked why they were selected---they answer with modest shrugs.

"We try to never say no when asked to contribute," said Ralph, who adds "we've tried to be supportive of a community that has supported us. We prefer to keep our support and business within the community."

RRPress/Tammy Asnicar

Ellen and Ralph Campbell take a quick break from work to bask in the "honor" of being this year's Rooster Crow Parade grand marshals. Ralph is wearing a T-shirt he designed for the 2004 Rooster Crow Car Show. The shirt features his beloved cherry 1954 Chevy Bel-Air.

One offer that was hard to refuse was the proposition of organizing a car show during Rooster Crow weekend to replace the defunct timber carnival.

The annual Rogue River Timber Carnival like the timber

see GRAND MARSHALS page 22

2009 Rooster Crow
Rooster Tails of a Different Sort

Photo courtesy: Brandon McGinnis

Notice the advertising *underneath* the boat.

By Steve Warga
Rogue River Press

Sure, roosters are famous for their gaudy bright tail plumage (and somewhat infamous for those crack-of-dawn crows). But there'll be rooster tails of an entirely different sort to be found beneath the Depot Street Bridge at high noon on Rooster Crow Weekend Sunday, just as they were last year.

This kind of rooster tail doesn't emerge from an eggshell. No, it sprouts long and frothy white behind a thin-walled, hollow wooden shell of a "boat" known as a hydroplane – as in "to plane the water surface at very high speeds" (Random House Dictionary). Real human beings mount small, screamingly powerful outboard Mercury engines to the transoms of those fragile wooden craft. Then they fire those engines to spin high-performance propellers sitting mere inches below the river's surface, point the boats' knife-edged noses into the current and proceed to defy nearly all reasonable survival instincts and every single common sense admonishment ever spoken on the lips of every son's mother.

With other like-minded daredevils nipping at their heels, these hydroplane racers rip their way upstream to the end-point of a leg, then turn around and do it all over again downstream. This they call "fun" and by golly, a whole lot of spectators, hanger-ons and wannabes seem to agree.

In other word, Sports Fans, the Cal-Ore River Racers Association contestants will be on hand again for the 2009 Rooster Crow Weekend Whitewater Race. This year promises to be better than ever, including another seven or so entrants over last year's 13.

Veteran racer, Grants Pass resident and Rooster Crow race director, Dereck Ely says, "We'll have nine of last year's top 10 points placers racing this year." It seems the word got out that Rogue River likes these screaming ban-

see JET BOAT RACERS page 19

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Calendar Of Events

Rooster Crow Weekend 2009

more events from page 7

10am –**Rooster Crow Weekend Parade**, Downtown

10am - 4pm– **Piecemakers Quilt Show***, Rogue River Middle School, $2 admission

10am - 2pm – **Rooster Crowing Contest Registration**, Elementary School Field

3:30pm - 7pm – **State of Jefferson**, Sponsored by Woodville Museum, Bandstand

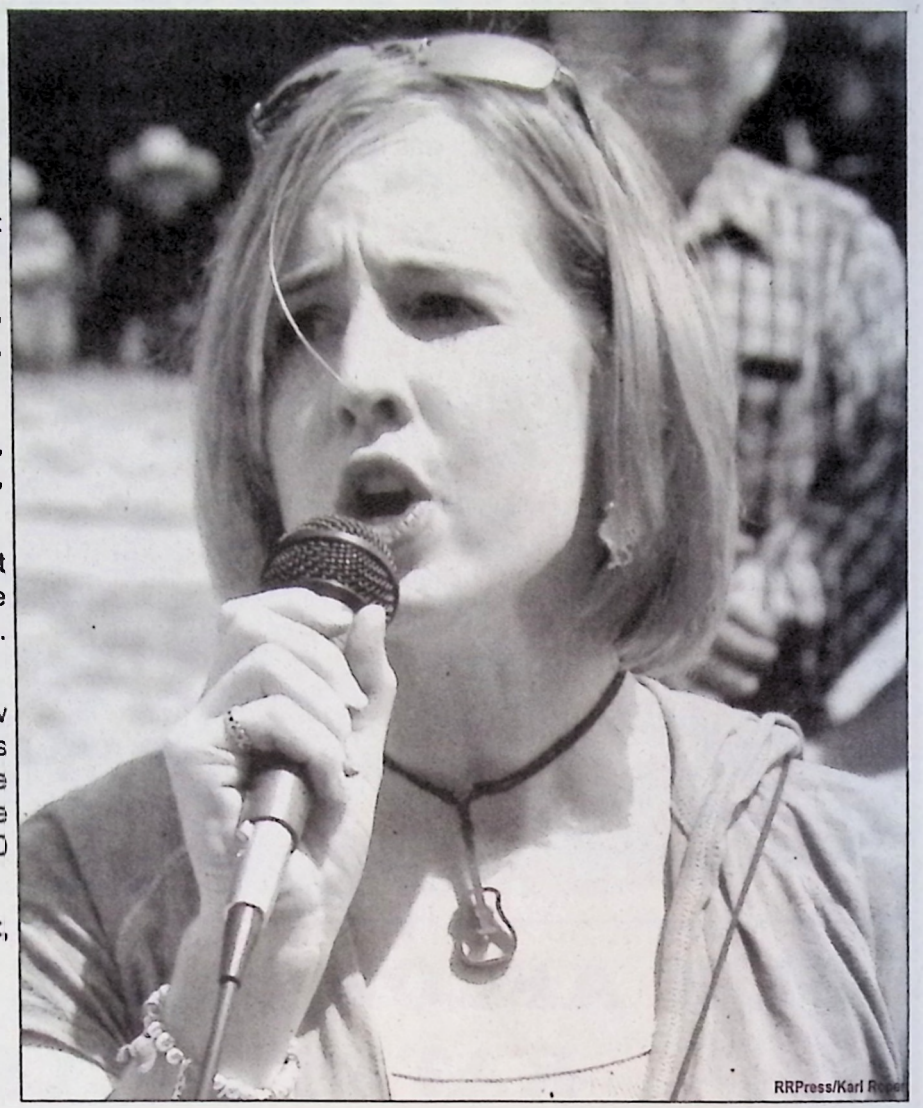
1-4pm - **Rogue River Accordion Club**, RRCC Annex, Admission by donation, Refreshments

11am - 2pm – **Noah's Play World.** Great activities for children, sponsored by the Rogue River Chamber of Commerce. Elementary School Field.

1:45pm – **Parade Awards**, Rooster Crow Arena (Elementary School Field). Trophies and awards not picked up will be available at Rogue River Chamber of Commerce office on Monday, June 27 beginning at 10 a.m.

2pm – **Human Rooster Crow Contest**, Elementary School Field

2:30pm – **55th Annual National Rooster Crow Championship**,



see page 19 for more events

2008 Human Crow Winner, Ann Thompson.

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2009 Rooster Crow Inside Scoop
The Making of a Champion

By Tammy Asnicar
Rogue River Press

Not much has changed since 1953, when the first National Rooster Crow Championship was held in Rogue River.

The rules are simple. Each person can enter one rooster; the rooster must remain in the cage throughout the contest. An impartial judge is assigned, and the tallying begins at 2:30 p.m. No mechanical, electrical, physical or chemical stimulants or devices are allowed. Moreover, in a town where roosters do rule the roost, roosters cannot be mistreated or abused.

Each rooster has 30 minutes to crow his heart out.

Never mind that most of the crowin' occurs before the official contest, when most of the roosters fall prey to the

see INSIDE SCOOP page 25

'08 Rooster Crow Winner, Charles with owner, Doug Perston

Rogue Valley Piecemakers
29th Annual
Quilt Show

Friday, June 26, 2009 1 - 4 pm
A preview for
seniors and quilters

Saturday, June 27, 2009
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, June 28, 2009
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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Many quality quilts
Featured Quilter: Millie Roach
Silent auction
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*ONE DOLLAR COVER CHARGE FOR THE BAND, WITH PROCEEDS GOING TO A RR CHARITY

Rooster Crow Parade Flashback
For Kids of All Ages

By Steve Warga
Rogue River Press

While it may not be completely accurate to say, "Everybody loves a parade," one thing's for sure, darn near everybody in Rogue River loves one. Parade fans thronged the streets from Rogue River Shopping Center all the way around to the elementary school yard on Pine Street. Packed three and four deep in some sections, fans clapped and cheered as some 63 entrants marched, danced, strutted and rolled along the avenue.

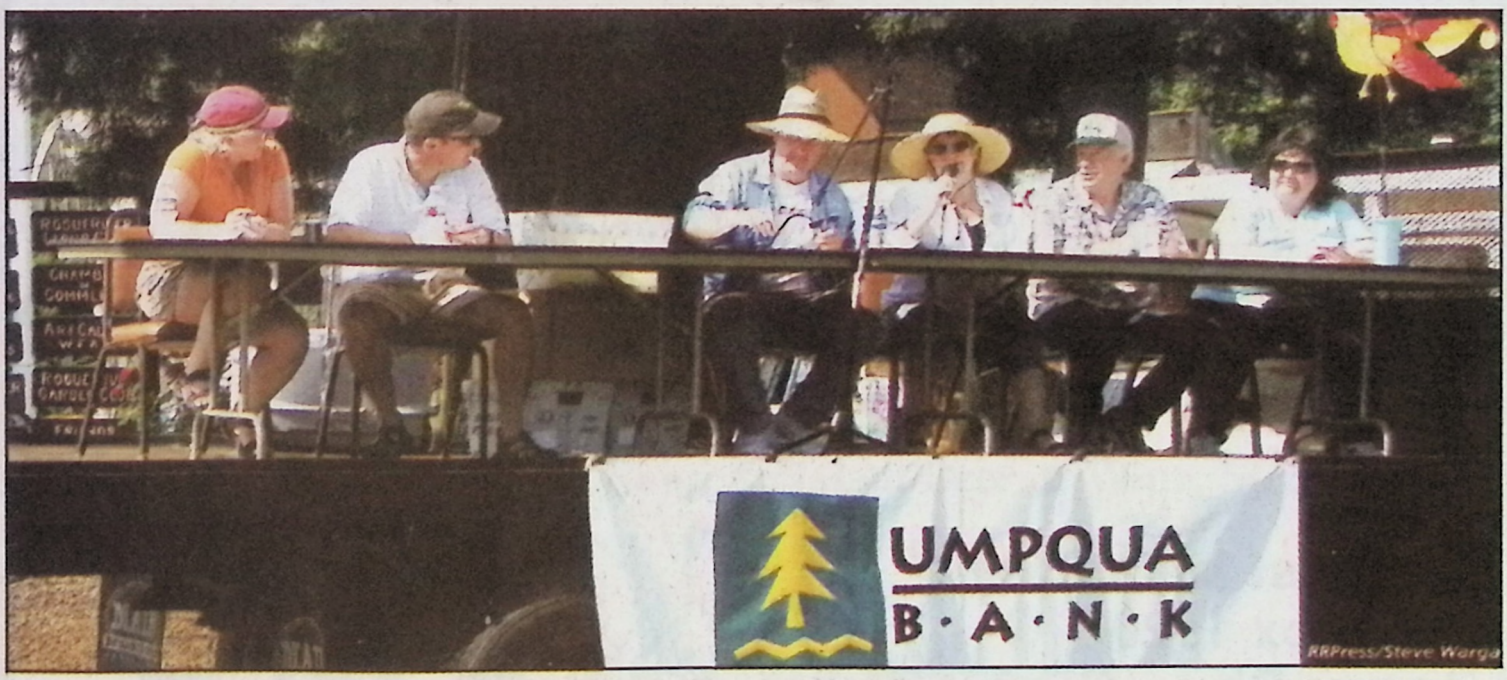
Shriners zoomed back, forth, round and round, in their go-karts; Little League Girls Softball All-Stars tossed generous handfuls of sweet treats to eagerly grasping children, many equipped with shopping bags to store their treasures, a June version of Halloween. Miss Rogue River 2008, Chelsea Angeletti and her court, clad in flowing gowns and artful coiffures, practiced their "princess waves" to what may well have been every single member of the Rogue River community. Paraders and parade-goers alike traded laughs, excitement, cheers, and of course, more candy for the kids.

Rogue River Press' own Leif Birdsall, this year's Master of Ceremonies, thought the fun ended all too soon. "It felt short; I was ready for more." Yet the number of entrants approached a record for the annual event. Birdsall traded quips with the crowd and the entrants as they moved past the viewing stand set up on the flat bed of truck loaned by Main Building Supply.

Seated above an Umpqua Bank banner and flanked by parade judges, the emcee produced a wide variety of hats matched to many of the entrants, beginning with a firefighter helmet that Birdsall quickly found a bit warmish, "Man these things get hot," he exclaimed. A wag nearby chimed in, "Imagine how hot you'd get in a fire without that hat!" By the time he pulled on a gorilla mask for Glamour Attire's entry, Birdsall was ready to replace his cooler gardener's straw hat for the duration of the event.

Although Saturday's worst heat had yet to strike, it still approached 80 degrees by parade time at 10 AM. An unusually long staging wait left many participants uncomfortably warm on the exposed asphalt parking lot of Ray's Food Place. By the time the Weiner Walk club reached Pine Street, their carefully groomed, costumed, and panting dachshunds lent a whole new meaning to "hot dogs." But like all their fellow paraders, they never missed a step.

*see **FLASHBACK page 28***



2008 Rooster Crow Judges (not in order) were: Shirley O' Gara, Mary Ann Ross, Rachael Reber, Steve Braden and Craig Warren.

NATIONAL ROOSTER CROW
CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

On the day of the Rooster Crow, fill out an entry form. It's available at the entry registration booth set up at the Crowing Contest area. No prior registration will be made. Entries will be accepted from 10 am to 2pm. At the time of registration, the roosters will be left in the crowing contest area.

NO ENTRY FEE IS CHARGED

At 2:30pm, the Crowing Contest gets underway as the judges to start counting the utterances of the feathered contestants. For 30 solid minutes, the crows of each rooster are recorded by their private judge.

Scores are tallied and awards are made at 3:15pm. Cash prizes are presented to the owners of the top five contenders.

Those wishing to participate must abide by the following rules:

1. One rooster per person.
2. The rooster must be in the cage.
3. Entrant must furnish one judge, 14 years of age or older.
4. Crow tallies may be verified by Crow officials at any time.
5. No mechanical, electrical, physical, or chemical stimulants or devices will be allowed in the cage with the rooster.
6. In no case will the roosters be abused or mistreated.

Interpretation, application and enforcement of these rules are the prerogative of the Rogue River Kiwanis Club, and violations may result in warning or disqualification.

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National Rooster Crow
Past Champions

2008 Rooster Crow Winner "Charles" at 36 crows

1953 Hollerin' Harry 71
1953 Beetle Baum 109
1954 Rocky 79
1955 Prince Albert 81
1956 Briggs 70
1957 Goldie 66
1958 Rusty 68
1959 Sandy 96
1960 Jerome 67
1961 Rascal 69
1962 Geronimo 63
1963 Mac-A Do 90
1964 Mac's Joe 69
1965 Black Fella 71
1966 Drum Stick 80
1967 Rinky Dink 49
1968 T-Bird 63
1969 Guber 71
1970 Rex 70
1971 Super Chicken 85
1972 Tom Dooley 73
1973 Great Speckled Bird 63
1974 Wild Bill 59
1975 Rastus 73
1976 Hamlet 57
1977 Doodle Do 62
1978 White Lightning 112
1979 Chunker 98
1980 Lewis (of Lewis & Clark) 87
1981 Crow'n Joe 82
1982 Crow'n Joe 65
1983 Crow'n Joe 70
1984 Chicken Little 83
1985 Crystal's Silver Streak 61
1986 Rosebud 90
1987 Redland Red 48
1988 Will E. Crow 56
1989 Henry 74
1990 Toby 71
1991 Bart 76
1992 Garth 76
1993 Just a Rooster 96
1994 Just a Rooster 68
1995 Mr. Skinhead 69
1996 Fowl Mouth 80
1997 One Eyed Jack 31
1998 Hank 50
1999 Henry Rooster 42
2000 Love Machine 36
2001 Splash 49
2002 Warfield 46
2003 Stew M. Wright 25
2004 Trigger 42
2005 B.W. 107
2006 Winchester 30
2007 Raul 45
2008 Charles 36
2009 ??????

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ROGUE RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2009 ROOSTER CROW PARADE

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2009

THEME: *ROOSTER DAZE*

Deadline For Entries: Friday, June 19

Return To: **Rogue River Chamber of Commerce Office**

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Parade Formation, 8-9:45 AM Saturday, June 27 • Rogue River Shopping Center Parking Lot
NO EARLY ARRIVALS!!! • Check in at Information Booth for Position Number • *PARADE STARTS AT 10 AM*

All entries will be judged on the basis of **ORIGINALITY, THEME** and **PRESENTATION** in each category.
Trophies and ribbons will be presented at 1:45 p.m. at the Rooster Crow Arena.
All visiting dignitaries from outside School District 35 must provide own transportation and banner.

✂✂ Clip & Mail Application To: P.O. Box 457, Rogue River, OR 97537 ✂✂

Name of group or individual (please print)_____

Address_____ Phone_____

Category Type (Choose From List Below) _____

Applicant Signature (If under 18 parent must sign)_____

Entry fee is $15 per unit. This fee helps defray the expense of ribbons and trophies.

PARADE ENTRY CATEGORIES

Entries received after

Please select ONE category only

*Trophies Awarded In These Categories Only. Other Categories Receive Ribbons.

Please Indicate How Many Vehicles Comprise Your Entry In The Parade

___* Best Theme-Related Entry

___* Non-Commercial Float (schools, churches, etc.)

___* Commercial Float (entered by business)

___* Best Youth Entry

___* Best Adult Entry

___* Antique Autos (group) (Plaque given)

___Adult Riders (horse)

___Junior Riders (horse)

___Marching Units (baton,drum, bugle, etc)

___* Golden Shovel

___Tractor(s) (Plaque given)

June 19 will be last in line. Enter early, please.

Chamber of Commerce hereby disclaims any and all liability of any nature, whatsoever, and Applicant hereby agrees to hold the Rogue River Area Chamber of Commerce harmless in any action from such accidents. Children under 18 years of age must have parent's signature.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Rooster Crow Weekend 2009

more events from page 12

2:30pm –
56TH ANNUAL NATIONAL ROOSTER CROW CHAMPIONSHIP,
Elementary School Field

Sunday, June 28

8am - 3pm – **Rooster Crow Car Show,** Elementary School field (awards at 2pm)
9am - 4pm – **Concession, Arts & Crafts** Booths Open
10am -**Cal-OR River Racers** - Warm-up
10am - 4pm – **Piecemakers Quilt Show***, RR Middle School
12pm -2pm - **Cal-OR Whitewater Racing**

Events Free of Charge unless denoted by an *, which carry an admission or entrance fee.

Photo courtesy: Brandon McGinnis

Very smooth, very fast; 2008 Winner Ryan McGinnis massages the throttle.

JET BOAT RACERS from page 10

shees skimming across the rapids, occasionally jumping clear over them. Ely says, "Last year we had a lot of positive feedback from the community of Rogue River. They loved it."

Among those returning racers will Gold Beach's Ryan McGinnis, last year's runaway winner of whom Ely notes, "He's an amazing driver and good mechanic, the whole package. He's fun to watch." Apparently McGinis likes winning too. He tucked another Boatnik title under his belt just two weeks ago in Grants Pass to jump out front in the Cal-Ore racers season points championship.

Plenty of other drivers will be gunning for McGinnis when the flag falls on the Rooster Crow event. The racing will be hot and heavy; well maybe it will be cold and breezy, but you get the idea.

The course this year consists of six legs beginning at Coyote Evans Park and running to the Hwy 99 bridge in Gold Hill. After each leg, the drivers stop while a sweep boat finishes clearing the river for the next leg. Then they point their noses back downriver to the starting point. They'll complete that cycle three times before a winner is declared.

That winner will be the driver with the lowest aggregate score as counted by finishing position on each leg. In the event of a tie, the boat finishing nearest the front on the final leg wins. Under this format, each leg is a race in itself, adding to the spectator value.

Warm-ups are at 10 a.m.; Driver's Meeting is at 11; and racing action kicks off at noon. Don't dally getting there though. These gaudy rooster tails will be moving upwards of 80 miles per hour along the mighty Rogue. It's quite a show.

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Offer good 6-27-2003 to 7-31-2003. Must present coupon at time of redemption. One coupon per customer. NO CASH VALUE. Not good with any other offers.

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$10 OFF

One **NEW or Renewing Display Ad, $25 or more in Rogue River Press or Gold Hill Nugget**

Offer good 6-27-2003 to 7-31-2003. Must present coupon at time of redemption. One coupon per customer. NO CASH VALUE. Not good with any other offers.

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GRAND MARSHALS from page 9
industry had been a traditional mainstay.

"When Louisiana-Pacific sold the mill, and there were no more logs, the timber carnival was out," said Ralph.

It was easy for him to slip into the driver's seat of the event---he says he's collected, refurbished and driven cool classics and hot rods for nearly 50 years.

"I guess they figured I knew what needed to be done," he said.

For half a dozen years, the couple organized the Rooster Crow Car Show, and Ralph designed the accompanying colorful artsy posters and T-shirts commemorating the Sunday event that has capped the three-day Rooster Crow festivities since 2000.

For the past three years, Ruth Bailey of Umpqua Bank has steered the show with Ralph acting as "a consultant." He also continues to be the artiste of the posters and T-shirts that have become collector's items.

When asked what they appreciate about Rogue River and Wimer, they both admit to "not being city folk."

"I appreciate the casual, country-style," said Ellen.

Ralph, a native Oregonian born and raised on a farm, lived in Grants Pass before he and Ellen married in 1986. And, since their wedding day, the couple has shared the 3.5-acre hillside property Ellen discovered in 1975.

"I've been here 34 years, and I absolutely love it," said Ellen.

Rural Southern Oregon reminds her of her childhood in rural San Fernando Valley, Calif., where she grew up on a half-acre ranch and rode horses and raised sheep and steer.

Because of their backgrounds, the organization nearest and dearest to their hearts is Rogue River High School's Future Farmers of America club.

FFA tops a list that includes contributing to all the local schools' fund-raisers, and two memorable community-wide projects---the high school's "Field of Dreams" and the Wimer Covered Bridge re-building effort.

Ellen has been active in the Chamber of Commerce and served on its board of directors, and Ralph has been a judge for the Miss Rogue River Scholarship Pageant. In past years, they also sponsored the high school equestrian team.

And, for the past year, Ellen has served on the citizen advisory committee to the Rogue River City Council.

"We do things because we want to," said Ralph. "Our motto is 'what goes around, comes around.'"

National Rooster Crow Grand Marshals

1975
1976
1977
1978 Anna Classick
1979 Carl "Bud" Dick
1980 Shade Combs
1981 Dennis Hitch
1982 Glen Wooldridge
1983 Jim & Iottie Martin
1984 Carl "Bud" Magerle & May Ellis
1985 Mabel Rigel
1986 Hugh Hartman
1987 Georgia & Carl Iane
1988 Jeanette Umscheid
1989 Walter Dennis
1990 Royal "Dee" Deland
1991
1992 Gary Chittum & Sally Holiday
1993 Colista Moore
1994 Dick Skevington
1995 Roy Milton
1996 Jim Craig
1997 Dorothy Finney
1998 Dick Handbury
1999 Dave Thomas
2000 Dale Hatch
2001 Bob Kirkwood
2002 Fred Boettcher
2003 Bob Gail
2004 Nancy Bradley
2005 Charlie Weaver
2006 John & Treeva Schaeffer
2007 Hope Warren's Family
2008 Tom Artoff
2009 Ellen & Ralph Campbell
2010 ??????

Rooster Crow Prize Money

1ST PLACE: $150
2ND PLACE: $50
3RD PLACE: $35
4TH PLACE: $25
5TH PLACE: $10
CAGE PRIZE: $15

Prizes awarded courtesy of: Rogue River Kiwanis Club

2009 Rooster Crow Boosters
Still Something To Crow About

By Tammy Asnicar
Rogue River Press

Rogue River's famed Rooster Crow Contest started in 1953 as a clever, some say silly, way to let folks know that Rogue River is a town, not just a river.

Shade Coombs, inspired by the tale of Welsh coal miners who staged colorful rooster crowing contests during their holidays, shared the idea with fellow merchants interested in generating a little publicity and self-promotion.

Coombs's proposition was accepted by the Rogue River Booster Club and funds were set aside for a cash prize for the owner of the rooster that crowed the most within a 30-minute period.

see BOOSTERS page 30

Rooster Crow circa 1954.

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Don't forget the Rooster Crow Parade beings at 10am....starts at the Rogue River Shopping Center.

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National Rooster Crow
Bandstand Schedules

ROGUE RIVER

ANTIQUES

(541) 582-0147
213 E. Main
Rogue River, OR 97537

The Rogue River Chamber of Commerce will sponsor live music during the 2009 National Rooster Crow Weekend.

The fun kicks off on Friday when River Citi R&B plays at the Woodville Museum Bandstand.

The Museum Bandstand will also feature State of Jefferson on Saturday following the Rooster Crow Parade. The event is sponsored by the Woodville Museum.

On Saturday after the Rooster Crow, the Chamber of Commerce presents TJ & the Spurs.

There is no admission charge to enjoy the music and entertainment at the bandstand.

Friday: 6:30-9:30pm
RIVER CITY R&B

Saturday: 3:30-7pm
STATE OF JEFFERSON

Rogue River Community Center

B-I-N-G-0

Saturday, June 27
AFTER the PARADE
Family Fun for only 50¢ a game!
Rest your weary feet.
Sit and have a soda while playing BINGO under a covered and shaded area.
Located on the west side of the Woodville Museum

Heuertz & Monen, P.C.
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Loren L. Heuertz
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pressure.

In 2007, Rusty, a six-month-old Phoenix American, experienced "stage fright" during his debut at the Rooster Crow.

"We can get him to crow on command at home," said his owner, Wendy Peters. During the competition, it was no-go, or is that no-crow.

That same summer, Bryson Tocher's rooster Chip was not a chip off the old block. The Rhodesian red did not follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, One-Eyed Jack, who won in 1997 with 31 crows. Perched in One-Eyed Jack's winning cage, he seemed uninspired.

The roosters are fewer these days, and so are the cock-a-doodle-doos.

The winner of the first crowing event was Hollerin' Harry. He crowed 71 times and earned his owner $50. A second contest was held September 5 of the same year with the prize money of $100 going to Beetle Baum, who managed 109 crows in the 30-minute period. "Beetle Baum" reigned supreme for 25 years. The closest any rooster came to dethroning him was in 1959 when Sandy crowed 96 times.

But, alas, it was bound to happen sometime. In the 1978 contest, a cocky rooster by the name of White Lightning beat old Beetle Baum's record with 112 cock-a-doodle-dos. His nearest competitor was Crow Baby who came in second with 63 crows.

No one knows the secrets that encourage a rooster to crow, but White Lightning's owner, Willie Beck of Gold Hill, said it was simple. "I just kept him away from any other roosters or chickens for six weeks before the contest and brought him to the contest in a large sack."

However, the secret may have been in the person of Dr. Mabel Bryant who stood before his cage flapping her arms and cheering him on to spectacular achievements. According to the good doctor, "We were communicating with each other!"

Was she the inspiration for the Human National Crowing Championship that began nine years ago?

Rogue River VFW Post 4116

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FLASHBACK from page 15

After the show, the club retired en masse to The Station Cafe for a private brunch where one and all rested their tired "dogs."

Along with his personal props, Birdsall enjoyed the use of a brand new sound system purchased by Umpqua Bank. Sleek in appearance, compact and powerful, the system functioned flawlessly all weekend, in every public announcement event. When Birdsall wasn't at the mic, city councilor John Bond usually was. Even the roosters seemed to appreciate hearing themselves in high fidelity amplification.

Working around this year's theme, "Bridges to Crow About," the local group Gussied up Guys and Gals pulled out the stops with elaborately detailed bridge miniatures built primarily by Gerry Gay. His wife and club coordinator, Tonnie, contributed accent touches like mini-tuxedos for their rooster models represented as walking across the bridges. Then guys and gals alike put on the ritz in their trademark period piece costumes and strutted their way to First Place honors in the Theme Related category.

"We all had a ball Saturday," said Tonnie. She acknowledged that this parade marked the group's last as "Gussied Up Guys and Gals." After breaking away from their counterparts in Grants Pass, local members refer to themselves now as "Ruffles and Rogues."

They also used the occasion to announce a new civic support venture commencing Thursday July 3, in coordination with Woodville Museum. During museum open hours, various Ruffles and Rogues members will stroll the streets between the museum and the newly opened Collectibles Unlimited on Depot Street. Says Tonnie, "I'm hoping we can pull in some tourists from this. Maybe if they see us down by the waterfall, they'll stop and visit our town."

Among other award winners was Citizens for Rebuilding the Wimer Bridge, first place Non-Commercial entry. Southern Oregon Federal Credit Union took the prize in the Commercial category, while Christian Life snagged the blue ribbon as Best Youth Entry.

see MORE FLASHBACK page 29

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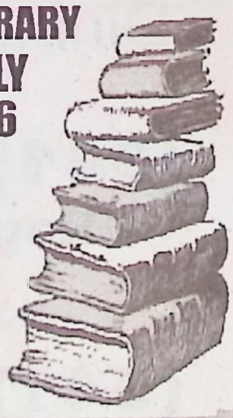
FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MEMBERS ONLY
Friday, June 26
4pm - 6pm

OPEN TO PUBLIC
Saturday, June 27
9am-4pm



MORE FLASHBACK from page 28

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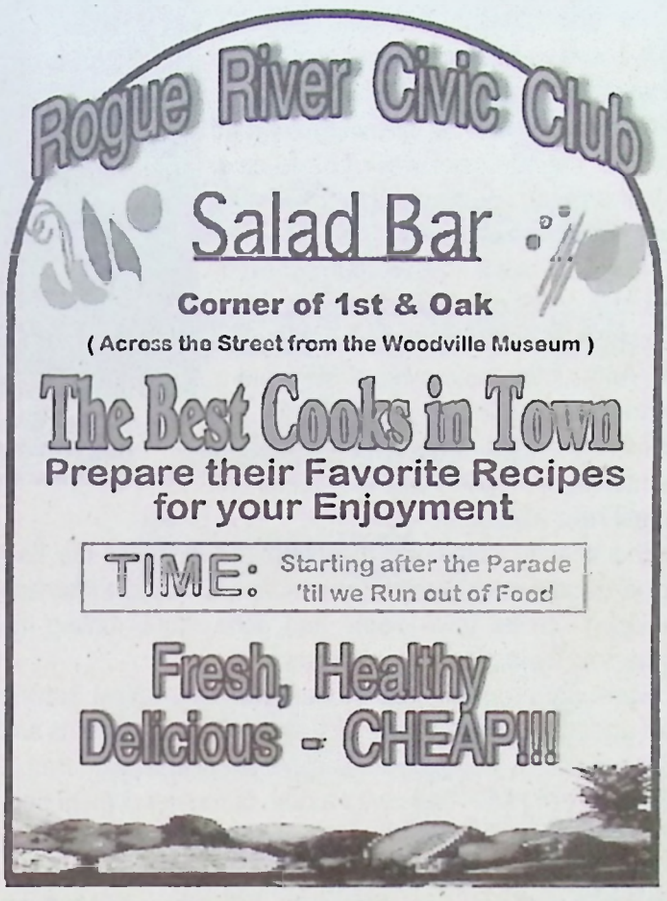

BOOSTERS from page 23

The first contest was held May 23, 1953. There were 75 roosters perched and ready to let loose when Chief of Police William Peters fired the opening gun at 10 a.m. The caged cocks were free to crow for half an hour. Hollerin' Harry crowed 71 times and earned his owner $50.

Now, $50 was a sizable sum, considering that in 1953, gas was 25 cents a gallon as were a loaf of bread and a gallon of milk. And, coffee was a mere 50 cents a pound. Interstate 5 had yet to be built, but still more than 500 people traveled to the tiny hamlet of Rogue River to witness the contest held at City Park.

Donnie Martin's bird, Hollerin' Harry, won the first-ever National Rooster Crow

The contest continued to entertain even after the final cock-a-doodle-doo. Grants Pass auctioneer Charlie Morrison auctioned off the fowl---some had gone afoul, ruffling the feathers of their coop-side handlers.

Silent Sam owned by Bill Reeder was offered first. Having lived up to his name, his owner disgustedly bid 10 cents and then watched a flurry of bidding. After high bidder Harold McKenzie paid $50, there was a rush of rooster owners hoping to cash in, but the bidding dropped rapidly.

A drizzling rain that turned to a downpour failed to dampen the spirits of the spectators or the boosters, and Medford, Grants Pass and Portland media gave the crow fest such favorable publicity, the boosters decided to hold a second contest on September 5, 1953.

The successful event has continued for 56 years, and the 57th crowing contest will again be held on the last Saturday in June. The Rogue River Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis co-sponsor the weekend.

A river may run through this quintessential small town 365 days a year, but on the last weekend in June, a rooster struts down Main Street.

Before all that cock-a-doodle-doo-ing begins, there is a rooster-themed parade---this year it's Rooster Daze. Roosters appear everywhere---on T-shirts, hats, banners, aprons, shoes and flags, and in the form of rooster statues and stuffed roosters.

"Rogue River has only two big events each year, the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Rooster Crow," Dee Ellison of the Rogue River Kiwanis told the *Rogue River Press* in 2007. "This is a fantastic opportunity for Rogue River to get together and have fun."

It is also a fantastic opportunity for the Rogue River Chamber of Commerce to promote this little town, and a great fund-raiser for the Kiwanis, as well as many other organizations.

Charlie Weaver, a Kiwanian and a local Realtor, has had a front row seat at the Rooster Crow every since that first one in '53.

"I remember when it was held down on Depot Street," he recalled last summer. "Cages lined each side of the street, and there were roosters and people up and down, all along the curbs."

He remembers one contest that started with a bang. The police chief was to blow a whistle at 10 a.m. to signal the start. No one heard the whistle, so he fired his pistol.

"Everyone was scared silly, the roosters too," he added.

From Depot Street, the contest moved to where the Umpqua Bank parking lot is today. For years, festivities were held at Wards Creek Park, said Weaver.

"Well, the freeway took out the park, and that ended that," he added.

The Rogue River Lions Club took over from the Rogue River Boosters Club, and since 1993, the Kiwanis have been lead organizers along with the Chamber of Commerce and the City of Rogue River.

Planning begins at the end of January, and in February, the agenda is set and a theme selected.

These days, the Rooster Crow shares the spotlight during what has become an entire weekend of activities, including one of the area's largest and best summer parades, the National Human Crow contest, a classic car show, a quilt show, entertainment, arts and crafts and food.

The weekend-long festival really starts rockin' and rollin' during Saturday's parade when more than 50 floats, marching units, horses, dogs, llamas, and folks in rooster costumes head down Main Street. Hundreds of people line the streets between the Rogue River Shopping Center and Rogue River Elementary School.

The rest of the weekend is full of activities, including a carnival and a car show all underscored by country music and oldies tunes.

"This all seemed hokey, when I moved here in 2002," said Holly Spitz. "First, you ask yourself why, and then you find yourself saying why not!"

"No one can figure out why, it just is," said Weaver. "People love it. It's just a whole lot of fun."

Added Spitz: "This is small town America. This is what we do."

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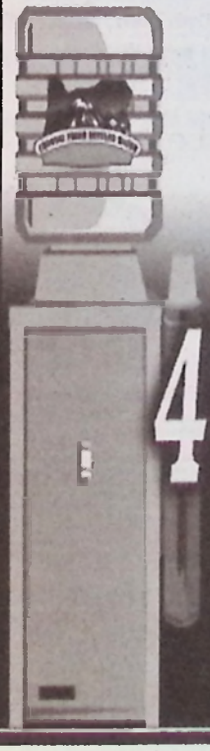

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FLASHBACK from page 15

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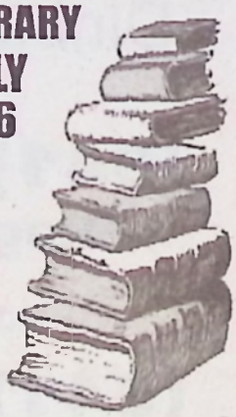

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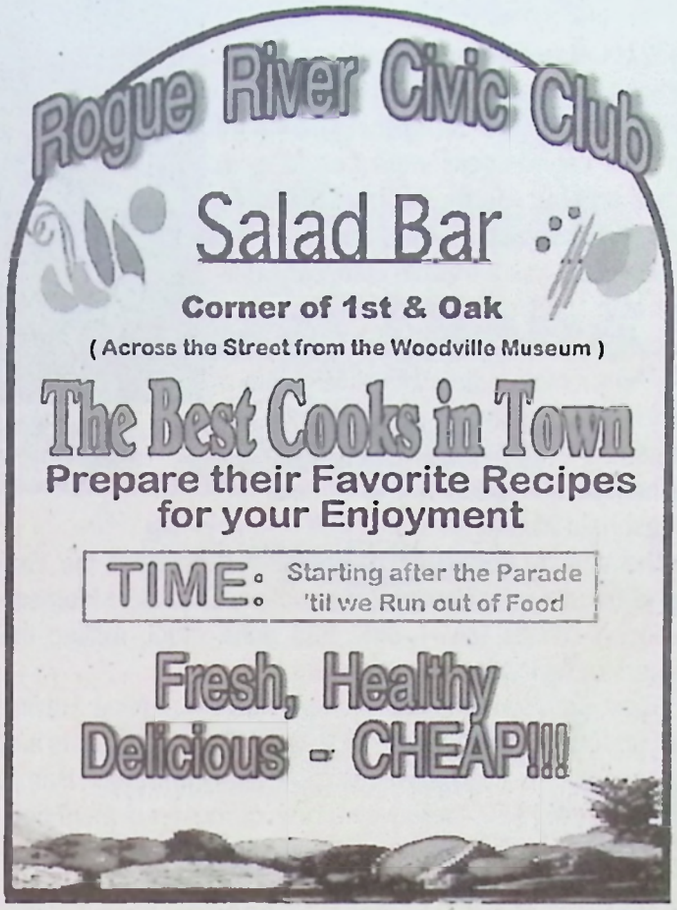

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2009 Rooster Crow Sponsors
It Takes Support

By Patricia Cruz
Rogue River Press

It takes sponsors to host a community wide festival. If it weren't for their generosity and support, small town festivals would most likely be a thing of the past.

To become a Rooster Crow major sponsor requires a contribution of $500 or more.

Major Sponsors of the 2009 Rooster Crow ($500 or more):

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City of Rogue River
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Rogue River Chamber of Commerce
Rogue River Press
Secret Shoppers
Spitz Insurance
Star Collision
Tarasco Restaurants
Umpqua Bank

Saturday Sponsors of the 2009 Rooster Crow ($350):

All State Tax Service
Main Building Supply

Sunday Sponsors of the 2009 Rooster Crow ($200):

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Many of these key sponsors not only donate money, but they also donate time,

see SUPPORT page 34

Umpqua Bank Manager Ruth Bailey shows off the Roosters on display at the Bank

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5K Run/2 Mile Walk • Saturday, June 27th, 2009 • 8 am

Rogue River Middle School • Beck Field
Course: Flat & fast, paved out and back

Entry Fee: Pre-Registration through June 20th
$8 Pre-registration with no t-shirt • $15 Pre-registration with t-shirt
$10 Race day with no t-shirt

Registration: Pre-registration by mail postdated June 20th
Day of race 6:30 am to 7:30 am

Divisions: All, including Wheelchair

Awards: Place and participation ribbons for all age groups

Drawings: Prizes! Must be present to win

Name:_____ Age:___ Shirt: S M L XL Gender: M F
Address:_____ City:_____ St.___ Zip_____
Phone_____ Event(circle one) 5K Run - 2 Mile Walk - Wheelchair

_____ No one may enter this event without signing the above waiver. Runners under 18 years old must have a parent or guardian's signature of permission.

Mail completed entry form with check to
Rooster Crow Run
c/o Dave Ehrhardt, Race Director • P.O. Box 1996 • Rogue River, OR 97537

Questions: call 621-6381

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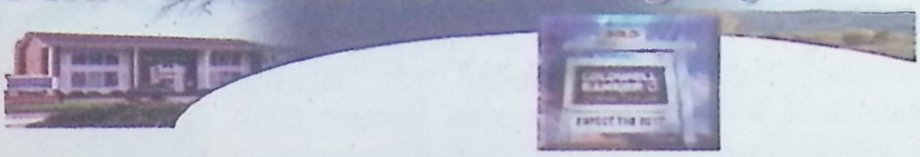

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Broker, GRI, CRS

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SUPPORT from page 32

equipment and even temporary use of their parking lots.

Umpqua Bank, previously known as Valley of the Rogue Bank, has been a Rooster Crow sponsor since they came to town in 1968. If ever an organization, a school club, or a Sunday Market needed a place to set up, Umpqua Bank has always graciously loaned out their parking lot whenever possible.

"We've always been a major sponsor," said Umpqua Bank Store Manager Ruth Bailey. "After all, it happens in our parking lot."

Bailey, born and raised in Rogue River, admits Rooster Crow is a big deal for her. As she talks about how popular this small town festival has gotten over the years, it's obvious she's proud to be a part of it.

Bailey isn't the only one involved in helping organize this event. Two other representatives from Umpqua have made this a part of their "things to do list" every year.

"Not only am I involved, but we've received support from our Vice President/Regional Manager Steve Baden and our Executive Vice President of Retail Operations for Oregon/Washington Rick Carey," Bailey said.

For the past four years, both Umpqua executives have contributed to the success of Rooster Crow. Baden is one of five Rooster Crow Parade judges. According to Bailey, once he got his feet wet he loved it and kept coming back. Meanwhile, Carey was having a grand time bidding on the handmade roosters designed and donated by community members and organizations to be used as part of a fundraiser auction benefiting the Rogue River community Center and the Rogue River Little League. Today, the four roosters Carey won high bid on are on display at the bank in Rogue River.

Shriners in go-carts.

"We are a community-oriented company helping every chance we get," said Bailey, who is also the Treasurer on Rogue River Chamber Board of Directors.

Thanks to all the sponsors that have come and gone over the years for keeping this important part of Rogue River's history alive going on 56 years.

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3. There is no law requiring you to obtain more than one estimate or appraisal.

4. Differences in repair estimates are common. A lower estimate may not include all necessary work. If you 're not sure why one estimate is different from another you've received, please ask us.

5. Never drive a car that could be unsafe because of damages.

6. Ask if the shop offers a repair warranty.

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8. Let us help you with your claims process.

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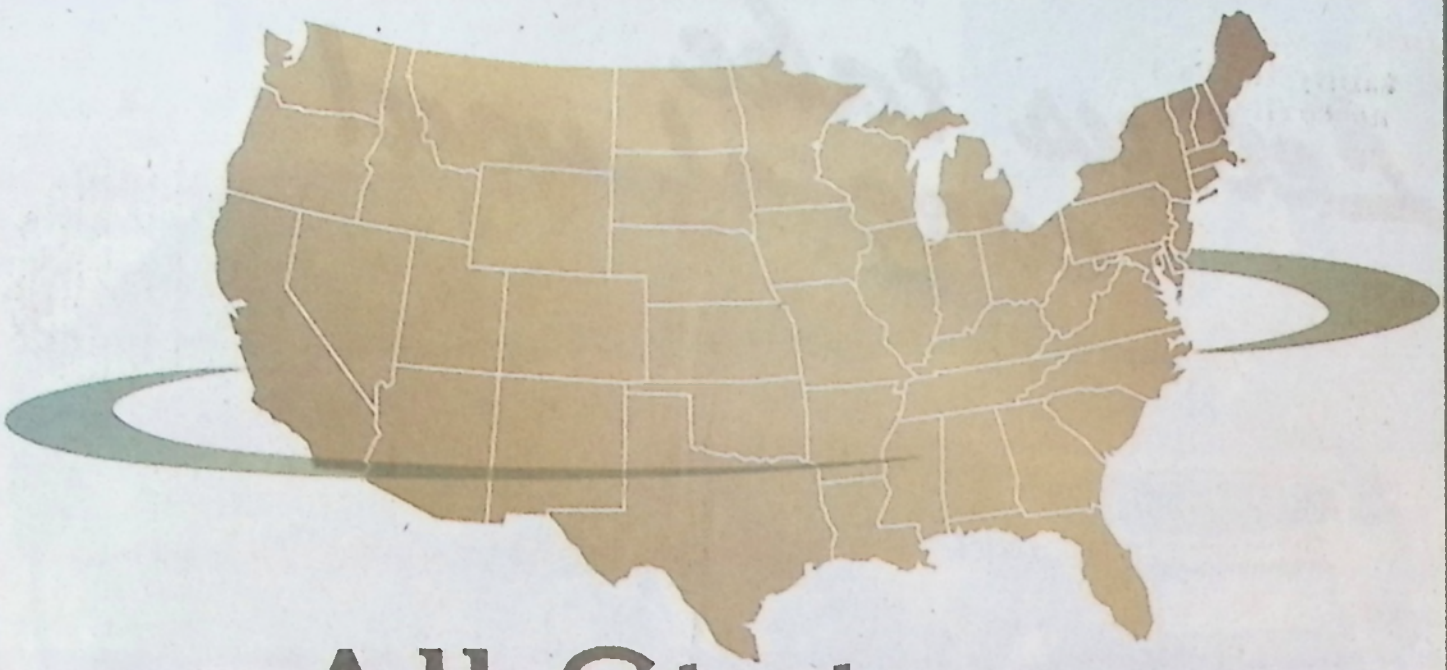

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Expiration: August 31, 2010

2009 Rooster Crow Lady Chiefs 2010

By Steve Warga
RR Press Staff Writer

Hey Sports Fans, you can sneak a peek at next year's Ro-High Lady Chiefs at the high school during Rooster Crow Weekend. Head Coach Dave Ehrhardt says the school will host a summer league tournament running Saturday and Sunday, June 27-28. Just as they did last year.

They're expecting a field of 12 varsity and six junior varsity teams from around the state to be playing games in both gyms on both days.

When you've had all the excitement you can stand downtown, cruise uptown to the school and take in some of the action from the stands. You'll get to see next season's best in advance, plus more than a few incoming hopefuls.

2009 Rooster Crow Rooster Jam 2009

By Steve Warga
RR Press Staff Writer

If driveway basketball's your thing, or you think it is, then get your team together for the Rooster Jam going down Saturday, June 27, starting right after the parade (approximately 10:30 a.m.) To be precise, this will actually be a parking lot tourney, but that's pretty close to driveway ball, isn't it?

It's a 3-on-3 double elimination tournament open to all-comers. You can enter up to four players for your whatever-clever-witty-sick-name-you-come-up-with team. You'll also need to scrape up 50 bucks for the entry fee and get your money and roster to high school coach Scott Anderson either pre-tourney or by 8 a.m. on June 27.

Games will be held in the Equipment Mart parking lot next door to Abbey's Pizza.

Details were pending when we went to press, but there will be prizes for the winners (along with 12 whole months of bragging rights ... priceless).

All proceeds go to the RRHS Boys Basketball program.

For more information, call Coach A at: (541) 601-6758.

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